

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend claims 43, 60, 63, 65-66, 68, and 69 as follows:

1-42. Canceled.

43. (Currently Amended) A method for performing an immunodiagnostic test for the presence in an ~~organism~~ animal of an infectious agent associated with *Salmonella enteritidis* (SE) or PRRSV disease, comprising:

a) immobilizing an antigen from said infectious agent, or an antibody specific for an antigen from said infectious agent, on a piezoelectric (Pz) crystal;

b) measuring a resonant frequency of said crystal following step (a);

c) contacting said crystal with a biological specimen from said ~~organism~~ animal to be tested,

d) measuring a resonant frequency of said crystal following step (c);

e) comparing the resonant frequency measured in step (b) with the resonant frequency measured in step (d) wherein if the difference between the two frequencies is equal to or greater than a cut-off threshold value then said biological specimen is positive for the presence of said infectious agent.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein said antigen is a recombinant antigen.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein said Pz crystal in contacting step (c) was previously used in a test which was negative for said infectious agent.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein following step (a) said crystal is contacted with a blocking reagent.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein said Pz crystal comprises an AT-cut crystalline quartz crystal.

48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 47, wherein said Pz crystal further comprises silver or gold electrodes.

49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 47, wherein said Pz crystal further comprises an oscillator circuit capable of electrically stimulating said Pz crystal to oscillate at its inherent resonant frequency.

50. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein said resonant frequencies are measured using a universal counter.

51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein said immobilizing is performed by a method selected from the group consisting of 1) physical adsorption onto a metal or polystyrene modified crystal and 2) covalent binding onto a polymer, silane or thiol compound treated crystal.

52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein said immobilizing is performed by dipping said Pz crystal into a solution of said antigen or antibody.

53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein said biological specimen is diluted prior to said contacting.

54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 46, further comprising washing steps following step (a), the step of blocking, and step (c) wherein said washing is with a physiological buffer comprising a detergent.

55. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 54, wherein said physiological buffer is a phosphate buffered saline.

56. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 46, wherein said blocking reagent is a non-active protein.

57. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 56, wherein said blocking agent is bovine serum albumin or casein buffer.

58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 46, wherein said blocking reagent is applied by a dip technique or a drop technique.

59. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein said contacting with a biological specimen is performed in a liquid phase or in a vapour phase.

60. (Currently Amended) The A method of ~~according to~~ claim 43, wherein said cut-off threshold is defined as the mean value of negative controls plus three times the standard deviation.

61. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein said antigen comprises a peptide of SEQ ID NO:2.

62. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein said antigen comprises ORF 5 of PRRSV.

63. (Currently Amended) A diagnostic kit comprising a Pz crystal coated with an antigen, or an antibody specific for said antigen, from an infectious agent associated with *Salmonella enteritidis* (SE) or PRRSV disease.

64. (Previously Presented) The diagnostic kit of claim 63, wherein said antigen is a recombinant antigen.

65. (Currently Amended) The diagnostic kit of claim 63, wherein said ~~recombinant~~ antigen comprises a protein of SEQ ID NO:2.

66. (Currently Amended) The diagnostic kit of claim 63, wherein said ~~recombinant~~ antigen comprises ORF 5 of PRRSV.

67. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein the method further comprises the step of regenerating a used Pz crystal coated with i) a bound antigen or ii) a bound antibody by

washing with a buffer containing boric acid/KCl-NaOH to remove any protein bound to said antigen or antibody while not removing said antigen or antibody thereby allowing said Pz crystal with bound antigen or antibody to be reused.

68. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 43, wherein the method further comprises the step of regenerating a used Pz crystal by washing with dichromate acid thereby removing any bound protein and any bound antigen to produce a clean crystal to which new antigen can be bound ~~found~~.

69. (Currently Amended) A method for performing an immunodiagnostic test for the presence in an animal ~~organism~~ of an infectious agent associated with *Salmonella enteritidis* (SE) or PRRSV disease, comprising:

- a) measuring a resonant frequency of a piezoelectric (Pz) crystal, on which is immobilized an antigen from said infectious agent, or an antibody specific for an antigen from said infectious agent;
- b) contacting said crystal with a biological specimen from said animal ~~organism~~ to be tested;
- c) measuring a resonant frequency of said crystal following step (c);
- d) comparing the resonant frequency measured in step (b) with the resonant frequency measured in step (d) wherein if the difference between the two frequencies is equal to or greater than a cut-off threshold value then said biological specimen is positive for the presence of said infectious agent.

70. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 69, wherein said antigen is a recombinant antigen.

71. (Previously Presented) A piezoelectric (Pz) crystal coated with an antigen, or an antibody specific for said antigen, from an infectious agent associated with *Salmonella enteritidis* (SE) or PRRSV disease.

72. (Previously Presented) The Pz crystal of claim 71, wherein said antigen is a recombinant antigen.